



SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

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5th April 2006

The Honorable Ed Royce
United States House of Representatives
2202 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
USA

Dear Representative Royce,

Congratulations are owed to you on the arrest and transfer of Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone based in Freetown. Your efforts in raising this important matter with the Administration, particularly during Congressional hearings and through numerous press releases, as well as supporting our funding needs, have played a vital role in the bringing of this major wanted war criminal before the court.

I am pleased to say that Sierra Leoneans are united in their belief (correctly) that Taylor, who terrorized the region for a decade, was quite manifestly in the forefront of those who bear the greatest responsibility for the atrocities committed in Sierra Leone.

The United States Congress has been incredibly generous and supportive of the Special Court over the last three years and the U.S. remains our largest contributor. Now the major challenge for the Special Court is to secure the funds that are necessary to carry out the trial of Taylor, in The Hague if that is determined to be the best location, as well as to complete our three on-going trials. The Taylor trial was not originally included in the 2006/07 budget of the Special Court.

I will be in the United States in May to meet with our Management Committee in New York to discuss another fundraising effort and would also be in Washington, DC to discuss the Taylor trial, next steps and the funding requirements of the Special Court.

I look forward to finally meeting you in person and thanking you personally for all your support. I also want to bring to your attention the great work and support of Tom Sheehy and Edward Burrier. They both have been invaluable contacts for my office and we look forward to continuing to work with them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Desmond de Silva', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Desmond de Silva, QC
The Prosecutor